



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

SDMS Document ID



456069

FINAL POLLUTION REPORT

County Line Mercury Site
Douglas County, Colorado

I. HEADING

Date: August 12, 1996
Site Name: County Line Mercury
From: Pete Stevenson, OSC
To: Anne Spencer, EPA Headquarters
Emergency Response
POLREP No.: POLREP #2 and FINAL

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: 5J
Delivery Order No.: 7608-076
Response Authority: CERCLA
ERNS No: CO960317
CERCLIS No: CO0001410265
Action Memo Status: July 16, 1996
Start Date : May 5, 1996
Completion Date: 6/18/96

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA Classic Emergency, Fund-Lead

B. Site

1. Site Description

The Site is a 3'-4' storm drain which leads to Highline Canal and several apartments - all of which are located at approximately 600 West County Line in Douglas County, Colorado.

2. Description of Threat

Several vials of mercury were illegally dumped in a storm drain at 600 West County Line. Nine vials were found at the entrance to the storm drain. Children had found the vials and were playing with or dumping them in or near the apartments. The storm sewer where the vials were found leads to the Highline Canal which is a park/bike path that transverses the Denver Metropolitan area southwest to northeast.



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IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

An OSC and EPA toxicologist, along with EPA's START and ERCS team members, mobilized to the Site in order to provide technical assistance and assess the Site.

2. Removal Actions to date

The Littleton Fire Department (LFD) secured the 9 vials of mercury which were found at the apartments and evacuated families from two apartments. LFD also used a shop vacuum to retrieve mercury in the apartments.

The OSC, EPA toxicologist, and EPA Contractors provided technical assistance in identification of cleanup areas and assisted the Locals with blood mercury samples and assessing potential migration of mercury to the Highline Canal.

EPA noted that there was spillage around the areas of 5 apartments on the concrete walkways and landscaping. These areas were cleaned up. Carpet was also removed in two apartments and the disposal/sink areas were tested for contamination and/or removed. Individuals who touched and/or played with the mercury were tested by their personal physicians.

EPA thoroughly investigated both apartments and removed contaminated clothing, vacuums, and other personal items. Some contaminated items were cleaned and returned to the owner. Building management provided temporary relocation for the tenants of #16-103. Building management removed uncontaminated carpet from the living room of #16-103 and replaced it with new carpet. EPA collected air samples from both apartments after all cleanup activities had been completed.

EPA cleaned up the sewer and storm drain by removing all sediment and debris in the storm drain and by removing 1" of sediment from the storm sewer. Confirmatory samples were collected afterwards.

EPA retrieved the LFD shop vacuum, vials of mercury, the contaminated carpet, and personal items, as well as soil and sediment.

V. COST INFORMATION

Following is a table of estimated removal costs to date:

Extramural Regional Allowance Costs:

TOTAL CLEANUP CONTRACTOR COSTS	\$ 45,000
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Other Extramural Costs Not Funded from the Regional Allowance:

Total TAT, including multiplier costs	\$ 10,000
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TOTAL, Extramural Costs	\$ 55,000
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Intramural Costs:	\$ 4,000
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TOTAL: REMOVAL PROJECT CEILING:	\$ 59,000
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VI. ENFORCEMENT

EPA will assist in the investigation of the origin of the mercury to determine if a source can be found.

VII. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

The Site wastes were drummed and placed into secure storage. Wastes were sampled and evaluated; then disposition of wastes was determined. All drums containing mercury, contaminated soil and debris, as well as vials of free mercury, were sent to Mercury Refining Company Incorporated in Albany, New York, to be recycled.